

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney today released the following statement after Speaker John Boehner abruptly shifted course on student loan interest rates:

“Speaker Boehner’s abrupt turnaround on student loans follows months of GOP intransigence on the issue, and is only happening because overwhelming public pressure to do the right thing has made his party’s continued opposition untenable. Immediately after the President’s State of the Union address on January 25, 2012, I introduced H.R. 3826 to prevent student loan interest rates from doubling. Between that day and this afternoon, GOP leaders showed little sympathy for the young people and families facing rate hikes. In fact, over that time, my commonsense legislation gained 151 House cosponsors, but only gained its first - and only - Republican backer today. During the three months since the State of the Union, Republican leaders dismissed this issue repeatedly and did not schedule one hearing, one mark up, or engage in any dialogue with the minority to fix this problem. Despite that disappointing intransigence, I am pleased that the growing support for the President’s call for action and my bill have finally shaken loose the House leadership, and we hopefully will provide relief for middle-class families in the coming days. ”

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